



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

342 North Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2507  
(860) 586-7506 Fax: (860) 586-7550 Web site: [www.cpcanet.org](http://www.cpcanet.org)

## Testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee February 10, 2011

Chiefs Anthony J. Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and Members of the Committee, we are here representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), to speak on several bills. Our comments may be general, because the bills on the agenda are in concept stage, and statutory language is not yet available.

We support **S.B. 85, AAC GUN SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIRING RANGES**. Recent tragic events call for some common-sense precautions at ranges.

We are concerned about **S.B. 547, AAC FIREARMS**. It is not clear to us how the sale, delivery or transfer of a pistol or revolver to or from a firearms collector would be recorded.

We support **S.B. 552, AAC RETIRED OFFICERS' AUTHORITY TO CARRY CONCEALED FIREARMS** in concept. Federal law--the Law Enforcement Safety Act of 2004--already allows an active or qualified retired law enforcement officer to carry a concealed firearm. We'd like to see detailed language to understand this better.

**S.B. 552, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PISTOL PERMIT APPEALS PROCESS**, would set deadlines for hearings on pistol permit appeals and for the issuing authority to explain a failure, refusal, revocation or limitation. We sympathize with applicants, and will do our best if the bill becomes law. But we must note that chiefs have received an unprecedented glut of permit applications since the economic downturn of late 2008. Further, due to backlogs at the FBI, criminal-history checks are routinely delayed. An arbitrary time limit may allow unsuitable applicants to get permits and firearms.

**S.B. 695 and H.B. 6185** each would establish a **GUN OFFENDER REGISTRY**, on the state and local levels, respectively. We support the concept; we believe we need to attack gun violence, and we like that these bills seek to control offenders rather than guns or law-abiding gun owners.

We oppose **H.B. 5643, AAC CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS**. States have a variety of standards to permit carry, and we'd need to know how we could keep track of which meet or exceed Connecticut's before we could make this work.

**H.B. 5643, AAC REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS**, would treat guns like automobiles. Both are legal products which have lawful uses, but which can be deadly if used carelessly or maliciously. Cars must be registered and their users licensed; why shouldn't firearms? We think they should.